

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANT: Roberto Defez et al. **GROUP:** Unknown

SERIAL NO: Unknown **EXAMINER:** Unknown

FILED: Herewith

FOR: METHOD TO CONTROL GENE EXPRESSION IN BACTERIA,
NAMELY *RHIZOBIACEA*, TO IMPROVE ROOT NODULE
DEVELOPMENT, NITROGEN FIXATION AND PLANT
BIOMASS PRODUCTION

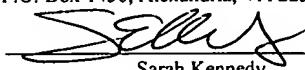
Mail Stop Patent Application
Commissioner of Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Preliminary to examination, please amend the above-identified application as indicated on the attached sheets.

I hereby certify that this paper (along with any paper referred to as being attached or enclosed) is being deposited on the date shown below in an envelope as "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" Mailing Label Number EV383544805US addressed to Mail Stop Patent Application, Commissioner of Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.


Sarah Kennedy
Date: 1/29/04